

a.) Amendment to the Claims:

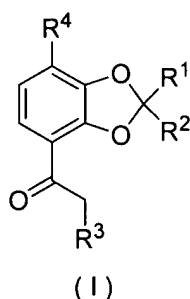
1. (Original) An agent for intra-airway administration comprising a compound having a PDE-IV inhibitory activity or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof as an active ingredient which shows its concentration in lung tissues 350-times or more higher than its concentration in plasma when administered into the airway.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The agent for intra-airway administration ~~comprising a~~ according to claim 1, wherein said compound having a PDE-IV inhibitory activity or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof ~~as an active ingredient which~~ shows its concentration in lung tissues 500-times or more higher than its concentration in plasma when administered into the airway.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The agent for intra-airway administration ~~comprising a~~ according to claim 2, wherein said compound having a PDE-IV inhibitory activity or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof ~~as an active ingredient which~~ shows its concentration in lung tissues 1,000-times or more higher than its concentration in plasma when administered into the airway.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The agent for intra-airway administration ~~comprising a~~ according to claim 3, wherein said compound having a PDE-IV inhibitory activity or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof ~~as an active ingredient which~~ shows its concentration in lung tissues 2,000-times or more higher than its concentration in plasma when administered into the airway.

5. (Currently Amended) The agent for intra-airway administration according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the compound having a PDE-IV inhibitory activity is a compound represented by formula (I)



wherein (~~wherein,~~

R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each represents lower alkyl, or R^1 and R^2 , together with the adjacent carbon atom, form a saturated carbon ring;

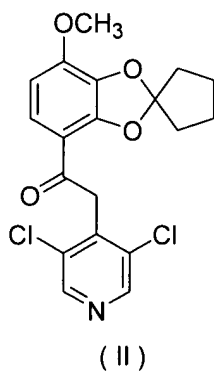
R^3 represents a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic heterocyclic group;
and

R^4 represents hydroxy or lower ~~alkoxy~~ alkoxy.

6. (Original) The agent for intra-airway administration according to claim 5, wherein R³ is substituted or unsubstituted pyridyl.

7. (Currently Amended) The agent for intra-airway administration according to claim 1, wherein the compound having a PDE-IV inhibitory activity is 7-[2-(3,5-dichloro-4-pyridyl)-1-oxoethyl]-4-

methoxy-spiro[1,3-benzodioxole-2,1'-cyclopentane] represented by formula (II):



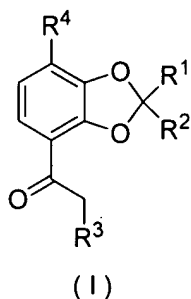
8. (Currently Amended) A method of treating and/or preventing a respiratory disease, which comprises administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound having a PDE-IV inhibitory activity or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof into the airway, which shows its concentration in lung tissues 350-times or more higher than its concentration in plasma when administered into the airway.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A method~~ The method of treating and/or preventing a respiratory disease, ~~which comprises administering an effective amount of a~~ according to claim 8, wherein the compound having a PDE-IV inhibitory activity or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof ~~into the airway, which~~ shows its concentration in lung tissues 500-times or more higher than its concentration in plasma when administered into the airway.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A method~~ The method of treating and/or preventing a respiratory disease, ~~which comprises administering an effective amount of a~~ according to claim 9, wherein the compound having a PDE-IV inhibitory activity or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof ~~into the airway, which~~ shows its concentration in lung tissues 1,000-times or more higher than its concentration in plasma when administered into the airway.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~A method~~ The method of treating and/or preventing a respiratory disease, ~~which comprises administering an effective amount of a~~ according to claim 10, wherein the compound having a PDE-IV inhibitory activity or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof ~~into the airway, which~~ shows its concentration in lung tissues 2,000-times or more higher than its concentration in plasma when administered into the airway.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of treating and/or preventing a respiratory disease according to any one of claims 8 to 11, wherein the compound having a PDE-IV inhibitory activity is a compound represented by formula (I)



wherein (~~wherein~~,

R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each represents lower alkyl, or R^1 and R^2 , together with the adjacent carbon atom, form a saturated carbon ring;

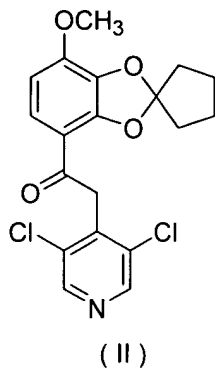
R^3 represents a substituted or unsubstituted aromatic heterocyclic group;
and

R^4 represents hydroxy or lower ~~alkoxy~~ alkoxy.

13. (Original) The method of treating and/or preventing a respiratory disease according to claim 12, wherein R^3 is substituted or unsubstituted pyridyl.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of treating and/or preventing a respiratory disease according to claim 8, wherein the compound having a PDE-IV

inhibitory activity is 7-[2-(3,5-dichloro-4-pyridyl)-1-oxoethyl]-4-methoxy-spiro- [1,3-benzodioxole-2,1'-cyclopentane] represented by formula (II):



15. (Currently Amended) The method of treating and/or preventing a respiratory disease according to ~~any one of claims 8 to 14~~ claim 12, wherein the respiratory disease is a disease selected from the group consisting of bronchial asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), pulmonary emphysema, chronic bronchitis, pulmonary fibrosis, pulmonary hypertension and eosinophilic pneumonia.

Claims 16-22 (Cancelled).

23. (New) The method of treating and/or preventing a respiratory disease according to claim 13, wherein the respiratory disease is a disease selected from the group consisting of bronchial asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), pulmonary

emphysema, chronic bronchitis, pulmonary fibrosis, pulmonary hypertension and eosinophilic pneumonia.

24. (New) The method of treating and/or preventing a respiratory disease according to claim 14, wherein the respiratory disease is a disease selected from the group consisting of bronchial asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), pulmonary emphysema, chronic bronchitis, pulmonary fibrosis, pulmonary hypertension and eosinophilic pneumonia.